

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: 9/9/99

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-20)

TO: Mark Shaw - KEWN-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Pataha Watershed Riparian and Cropland Restoration

Budget No: F5382

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.8 Bank Protection through Vegetation Management, 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities, 2.2 Plant/Protect Conifers in Riparian Areas for Thermal Cover, 2.4 Provide Filter Strips to Catch Sediment and Other Pollutants, 3.1 Plant/Protect Vegetative/Conservation Cover, 3.2 Conservation Cropping Sequence, 3.3 Conservation Tillage, 3.4 Contour Farming, 3.7 Critical Area Planting, 3.8 Delayed Seed Bed Preparation, 3.9 Grasses and Legumes in Rotation, 3.11 Field Stripcropping, 3.12 Terracing, 3.15 Filter Strip, 3.16 Grassed Waterway, 3.17 Sediment Basins, 3.23 Chemical Management Plans, 3.24 Fertilizer Application: Rates and Timing, 3.26 Evaluate Field Limitations, 3.27 Equipment Calibration and Use, 3.28 Alternative Pest Management Strategies, 3.29 Herbicide/Pesticide Application, 3.30 Apply Herbicides/Pesticides Selectively, 3.31 Herbicide/Pesticide Application Rates, 6.1 Deferred Grazing, 6.2 Planned Grazing System, 6.3 Control Grazing Intensity, 6.4 Pasture and Hayland Management, 6.5 Water Supply: Pipeline, 6.9 Water Supply: Spring Development, 6.10 Access: Fencing.

Location: Various locations in the Pataha Creek Watershed, WA.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and the Pomeroy Conservation District (PCD).

Description of the Proposed Action: There are three projects associated with the Pataha Watershed Riparian and Cropland Restoration Project: Washington State University (WSU) Monitoring Program, Riparian Restoration Practices, and Upland Conservation Practices.

The WSU Monitoring Program includes an extensive monitoring plan that must be implemented in the Pataha Watershed to show the effects of existing conservation practices that have been installed in the riparian area and on the upland. Comparisons will be made between different upland conservation practices to determine the most effective practice at reducing erosion and the resulting sediment delivery into the Pataha Creek. This would be done through a monitoring program of measuring actual erosion on different sites using different conservation practices. After this determination, an increased effort will be made to implement these effective practices.

Five sites have been selected within the watershed for water quality monitoring. The information that will be gathered will be used to also aid in the determination of what is happening within the watershed and what practices are reducing the sedimentation in the Pataha.

The Riparian Restoration Practices project and Upland Conservation Practices project are cost share programs that will be used over the next three years to install conservation practices on the uplands of the Pataha Creek Watershed. Other practices covered under the existing cost share programs could be installed providing they meet the criteria outlined in the Pataha Watershed plan. Specific conservation practices will be analyzed for their effectiveness in reducing erosion and the resulting sedimentation before being cost shared. The practices must reduce sediment entering the Pataha Creek and help to restore and enhance habitat for fish in the Pataha Creek and Tucannon River. Only practices determined by a monitoring program to effectively and efficiently reduce sedimentation will be cost shared.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by the PCD and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

No known threatened or endangered species are present on the project sites. If threatened and endangered species are found during further site investigations or construction Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) policy will be followed.

No known cultural resources are listed on State Historical Preservation Officer's database maintained in the Pomeroy NRCS Office, for the sections, townships, and ranges listed for the sites. If, during site investigation or practice installation cultural resources are found NRCS policy would be followed.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.763, 7.6D, 7.7A, and 7.8B1 of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. The attached Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and; 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Eric N. Powers

Eric N. Powers

Environmental Project Lead - KECN

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 9/9/99

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

cc: (w/attachment)

H. Nigam – DOE/EH-42

L. Croff - KECN-4

B. Beraud - KECN-4

N. Weintraub - KECN-4

P. Key - LC-7

Official File - KECN (EQ-14)

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